buyer do not require pre-shipment inspection from any official Indian Inspection Agency.

Production and import of Rubber

2640. KUMARI ALIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the annual production of natural rubber in India during the last three years and what has been its demand during the same period;

(b) whether Government propose to import rubber;

(c) if so, the quantity and value thereof; and

(d) what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Annual production and demand of natural rubber during the last three years were as follows:

(In Tonnes)

Year	Production	Demand
1988-89	259,172	313,830
1989-90	297,300	341,840
1990-91	329,615	364,310

(b) to (d) No canalised import of natural rubber through STC is proposed during 1991-92 as domestic supply, including stock held by STC, would be sufficient to take care of the demand.

Fairs abroad to be organised by the Indian Chamber of Leather Industry

2641. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Chamber of Leather Industry has sought permission for organising fairs abroad in collaboration with the Council for leather exports;

(b) if so, whether Government have examined the issue;

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(d) what other steps Government have taken or propose to be taken to promote export of leather goods in foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No formal request to this effect has been received by Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Market promotion measures abroad and product development efforts to improve the quality of Indian leather goods and make it more competitive in world markets, are some of the steps taken for promoting exports.

Exports of non-Basmati Rice

2642. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI SOM PAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inspite of good demand for non-Basmati Indian rice in world market, its exports are being hampered by delays in procedural clearance of rice-export quota;

(b) if so, what is being done to streamline the system; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that rice-exports are capable of generating good foreign exchange earnings for our country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) The procedure has recently been simplified so as to eliminate any delay in getting clearance for these exports.

(c) Yes, Sir. During the current financial year, export of non-Basmati rice is estimated to fetch foreign exchange worth Rs. 400 crores.

2643. [*Transferred to the 20th December, 1991*]